

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. *(Currently Amended)* A method for accessing an Information Management System (IMS) database, the method comprising:
 reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
 de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
 storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking,
 [[wherein]] said segments in the segment array [[are]] being directly accessible_[][: wherein]] the segment array [[is]] being usable to unload the segments; and
 creating a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the segments in the segment array, said lookup table comprising a plurality of pairs, each of said pairs comprising a key value and a segment array location, said key value being used to index into the lookup table to obtain a corresponding segment array location.
 wherein the segments are stored in the segment array in an indexed order and according to a collating sequence of the key values in the lookup table.
2. *(Cancelled)*
3. *(Currently Amended)* The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said segments in the segment array are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment and then accessing child segments of the root segment using the lookup table.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein said storing comprises storing the segments in the segment array according to rules in the IMS database.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein said key value comprises a segment type identification number, a partition identification number, a data set group identification number, and a relative byte address.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein said segment type identification number within said key value causes [[the]] root segments to be stored in the segment array before [[the]] child segments.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 2;~~ A method for accessing an Information Management System (IMS) database, the method comprising:
reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of
the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking, said
segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the segment
array being usable to unload the segments, the segments being stored in
the segment array in an indexed order,
creating a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the segments
in the segment array; and
[[further comprising]] accessing segments from the segment array, wherein said
accessing comprises:
(a) examining a root segment in the segment array;

- (b) generating a key for a first child segment of the root segment using information in the root segment;
- (c) obtaining a segment memory location of the first child segment from the lookup table using the key for the first child segment;
- (d) examining the first child segment using the segment memory location of the first child segment;
- (e) generating a key for a subsequent child segment of the root segment using information in the previous child segment;
- (f) obtaining a segment memory location of the subsequent child segment from the lookup table using the key for the subsequent child segment;
- (g) examining the subsequent child segment using the segment memory location of the subsequent child segment; and
repeating (e), (f), and (g) for zero or more subsequent child segments.

10. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim [[2]] 1, further comprising accessing segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:
examining a root segment in the segment array; and
processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according to their hierarchical relationship.
11. (*Original*) The method of claim 10, wherein said processing uses the lookup table.

12. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 1, A method for accessing an Information Management System (IMS) database, the method comprising:
reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of
the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking, said
segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the segment
array being usable to unload the segments, wherein said storing
comprises storing [[the]] child segments in the segment array in a relative
byte address (RBA) order; and
[[wherein the method further comprises]] creating a first segment array for root
segments and a second segment array for child segments.
13. (*Original*) The method of claim 12, wherein said segments in the segment arrays
are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment from the first segment array
and then accessing child segments of the root segment from the second segment
array.

14. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 12, further comprising accessing segments from the segment arrays, wherein said accessing comprises:
- (a) examining a root segment in the first segment array;
 - (b) determining an RBA of a first child segment of the root segment using information in the root segment;
 - (c) examining the first child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the first child segment;
 - (d) determining an RBA of a subsequent child segment of the root segment using information in the previous child segment;
 - (e) examining the subsequent child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the subsequent child segment; and
repeating (d) and (e) for zero or more subsequent child segments.
15. (*Currently Amended*) The method of claim 12, further comprising accessing segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:
examining a root segment in the segment array; and
processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according to their hierarchical relationship.
16. (*Original*) The method of claim 15, wherein said processing uses the first segment array and the second segment array.
17. (*Original*) The method of claim 1, wherein de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading further comprises:
extracting the individual IMS segments that are physically contained within the physical block.

18. *(Currently Amended)* A system comprising:
a network;
a CPU coupled to the network;
a memory coupled to the CPU which stores an IMS database;
a system memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the system memory stores one
or more computer programs executable by the CPU;
wherein the computer programs are executable to:
read blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein
each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
de-block segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
store each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking,
[[wherein]] said segments in the segment array [[are]] being directly
accessible, [[; wherein]] the segment array [[is]] being usable to
unload the segments; and
create a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the
segments in the segment array, said lookup table comprising a
plurality of pairs, each of said pairs comprising a key value and a
segment array location, said key value being used to index into the
lookup table to obtain a corresponding segment array location,
wherein the segments are stored in the segment array in an indexed order
and according to a collating sequence of the key values in the
lookup table.
19. *(Cancelled)*
20. *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim [[19]] 18, wherein said segments in the
segment array are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment and then
accessing child segments of the root segment using the lookup table.

21. *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim [[19]] 18, wherein said storing comprises storing the segments in the segment array according to rules in the IMS database.
22. *(Cancelled)*
23. *(Cancelled)*
24. *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim [[23]] 18, wherein said key value comprises a segment type identification number, a partition identification number, a data set group identification number, and a relative byte address.
25. *(Original)* The system of claim 24, wherein said segment type identification number within said key value causes the root segments to be stored in the segment array before the child segments.
26. *(Currently Amended)* ~~The system of claim 19,~~ A system comprising:
a network;
a CPU coupled to the network;
a memory coupled to the CPU which stores an IMS database;
a system memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the system memory stores one
or more computer programs executable by the CPU;
wherein the computer programs are executable to:
read blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein
each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
de-block segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
store each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking,
said segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the

segment array being usable to unload the segments, the segments in the segment array being stored in an indexed order; create a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the segments in the segment array; and

[[wherein the computer programs are further executable to]] access segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:

- (a) examining a root segment in the segment array;
- (b) generating a key for a first child segment of the root segment using information in the root segment;
- (c) obtaining a segment memory location of the first child segment from the lookup table using the key for the first child segment;
- (d) examining the first child segment using the segment memory location of the first child segment;
- (e) generating a key for a subsequent child segment of the root segment using information in the previous child segment;
- (f) obtaining a segment memory location of the subsequent child segment from the lookup table using the key for the subsequent child segment;
- (g) examining the subsequent child segment using the segment memory location of the subsequent child segment; and repeating (e), (f), and (g) for zero or more subsequent child segments.

27. *(Currently Amended)* The system of claim ~~[[19]]~~ 18, wherein the computer programs are further executable to access segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:
- examining a root segment in the segment array; and
 - processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according to their hierarchical relationship.
28. *(Original)* The system of claim 27, wherein said processing uses the lookup table.
29. *(Currently Amended)* ~~The system of claim 18,~~ A system comprising:
- a network;
 - a CPU coupled to the network;
 - a memory coupled to the CPU which stores an IMS database;
 - a system memory coupled to the CPU, wherein the system memory stores one or more computer programs executable by the CPU;
 - wherein the computer programs are executable to:
 - read blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
 - de-block segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
 - store each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking, said segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the segment array being usable to unload the segments, wherein said storing comprises storing [[the]] child segments in the segment array in a relative byte address (RBA) order; and
 - [[wherein the computer programs are further executable to]] create a first segment array for root segments and a second segment array for child segments.

30. (*Original*) The system of claim 29, wherein said segments in the segment arrays are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment from the first segment array and then accessing child segments of the root segment from the second segment array.

31. (*Currently Amended*) The system of claim 29, wherein the computer programs are further executable to access segments from the segment arrays, wherein said accessing comprises:

- (a) examining a root segment in the first segment array;
 - (b) determining an RBA of a first child segment of the root segment using information in the root segment;
 - (c) examining the first child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the first child segment;
 - (d) determining an RBA of a subsequent child segment of the root segment using information in the previous child segment;
 - (e) examining the subsequent child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the subsequent child segment; and
- repeating (d) and (e) for zero or more subsequent child segments.

32. (*Currently Amended*) The system of claim 29, wherein the computer programs are further executable to access segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:

examining a root segment in the segment array; and
processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according to their hierarchical relationship.

33. (*Original*) The system of claim 32, wherein said processing uses the first segment array and the second segment array.

34. (*Original*) The system of claim 18, wherein the computer programs are further executable to de-block segments in said blocks in response to said reading by extracting the individual IMS segments that are physically contained within the physical block.

35. (*Currently Amended*) A carrier medium which stores program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable to implement:
reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;
de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;
storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking,
[[wherein]] said segments in the segment array [[are]] being directly accessible, [[; wherein]] the segment array [[is]] being usable to unload the segments; and
creating a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the segments in the segment array, said lookup table comprising a plurality of pairs, each of said pairs comprising a key value and a segment array location, said key value being used to index into the lookup table to obtain a corresponding segment array location,
wherein the segments in the segment array are stored in an indexed order and are stored according to a collating sequence of the key values in the lookup table.

36. (*Cancelled*)

37. (*Currently Amended*) The carrier medium of claim [[36]] 35, wherein said segments in the segment array are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment and then accessing child segments of the root segment using the lookup table.

38. *(Currently Amended)* The carrier medium of claim [[36]] 35, wherein said storing comprises storing the segments in the segment array according to rules in the IMS database.

39. *(Cancelled)*

40. *(Cancelled)*

41. *(Currently Amended)* The carrier medium of claim [[40]] 38, wherein said key value comprises a segment type identification number, a partition identification number, a data set group identification number, and a relative byte address.

42. *(Original)* The carrier medium of claim 41, wherein said segment type identification number within said key value causes the root segments to be stored in the segment array before the child segments.

43. *(Currently Amended)* ~~The carrier medium of claim 36,~~ A carrier medium which stores program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable to implement;

reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;

de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;

storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking, said segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the segment array being usable to unload the segments, the segments being stored in the segment array in an indexed order;
creating a lookup table, said lookup table being useable to access the segments in the segment array; and

[[wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement]]
accessing segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing
comprises:
(a) examining a root segment in the segment array;
(b) generating a key for a first child segment of the root segment using
information in the root segment;
(c) obtaining a segment memory location of the first child segment from
the lookup table using the key for the first child segment;
(d) examining the first child segment using the segment memory location
of the first child segment;
(e) generating a key for a subsequent child segment of the root segment
using information in the previous child segment;
(f) obtaining a segment memory location of the subsequent child segment
from the lookup table using the key for the subsequent child
segment;
(g) examining the subsequent child segment using the segment memory
location of the subsequent child segment; and
repeating (e), (f), and (g) for zero or more subsequent child segments.

44. (*Currently Amended*) The carrier medium of claim 36, wherein the program
instructions are further executable to implement accessing segments from the segment
array, wherein said accessing comprises:
examining a root segment in the segment array; and
processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to
access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according
to their hierarchical relationship.

45. (*Original*) The carrier medium of claim 44, wherein said processing uses the
lookup table.

46. *(Currently Amended)* ~~The carrier medium of claim 35,~~ A carrier medium which stores program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable to implement:

reading blocks of the IMS database sequentially, block by block, wherein each of the blocks comprises zero or more segments;

de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading;

storing each segment in a segment array in response to said de-blocking, said segments in the segment array being directly accessible, the segment

array being usable to unload the segments, wherein said storing comprises storing [[the]] child segments in the segment array in a relative byte address (RBA) order; and

[[wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement]] creating a first segment array for root segments and a second segment array for child segments.

47. *(Original)* The carrier medium of claim 46, wherein said segments in the segment arrays are directly accessible by first accessing a root segment from the first segment array and then accessing child segments of the root segment from the second segment array.

48. *(Currently Amended)* The carrier medium of claim 46, wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement accessing segments from the segment arrays, wherein said accessing comprises:

- (a) examining a root segment in the first segment array;
- (b) determining an RBA of a first child segment of the root segment using information in the root segment;
- (c) examining the first child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the first child segment;

- (d) determining an RBA of a subsequent child segment of the root segment using information in the previous child segment;
- (e) examining the subsequent child segment in the second segment array using the RBA of the subsequent child segment; and repeating (d) and (e) for zero or more subsequent child segments.

49. *(Currently Amended)* The carrier medium of claim 46, wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement accessing segments from the segment array, wherein said accessing comprises:

- examining a root segment in the segment array; and
- processing information from the root segment and subsequent child segments to access each root segment and its zero or more child segments according to their hierarchical relationship.

50. *(Original)* The carrier medium of claim 49, wherein said processing uses the first segment array and the second segment array.

51. *(Original)* The carrier medium of claim 35, wherein the program instructions are further executable to implement de-blocking segments in said blocks in response to said reading by extracting the individual IMS segments that are physically contained within the physical block.

52. *(Original)* The carrier medium of claim 35, wherein the carrier medium is a memory medium.